

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 005376

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA
FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR
AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;
ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - SAUDI ARABIA-IRAQ, HIROSHIMA

PARIS - PARIS - AUGUST 5, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- 1) SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ
- 2) HIROSHIMA

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

WITH SUMMER IN FULL SWING, THE FRENCH PRESS HIGHLIGHTS LIGHT TOPICS, FROM SECONDARY "VACATION" HOMES IN POPULAR/CONSERVATIVE LE PARISIEN TO DETECTIVE TRAINING SCHOOLS IN POPULAR/CONSERVATIVE FRANCE SOIR. AN EXCEPTION IS RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO WHOSE FRONT PAGE AND EDITORIAL FOCUS ON THE "INFILTRATION" OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BY 12,000 MEMBERS OF ATTAC, AN ANTI-GLOBALIZATION NETWORK. THE EDITORIAL COMPARES ATTAC TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE "TRYING TO ERASE THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION" AND TO ARAB GEOGRAPHY BOOKS WHICH DO NOT SHOW THE STATE OF ISRAEL. "EVERY ATTEMPT TO TWIST REALITY TOWARDS A MILITANT GOAL IS CONTRARY TO THE ELEMENTARY ETHICS OF TEACHING. ATTAC IS THE 'ANTI-PARTY' OF EVERYTHING: ANTI-GLOBALIZATION, ANTI-CAPITALISM, ANTI-PROFIT, ANTI-GMO." LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION EXAMINES SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AND THE GROWING USE OF THEM IN EUROPEAN AND FRENCH PUBLIC SPACES, AS WELL AS THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO TRACK CELL PHONE CALLS. THE EDITORIAL WORRIES ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES.

FAIRLY LIMITED INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUSES ON THE NEW VIDEO BROADCAST BY AL-JAZEERA IN WHICH AL-ZAWAHRI, BIN LADEN'S "DEPUTY," THREATENS THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR NOT HAVING PULLED THEIR TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ.

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION LOOKS AT THE COUP IN MAURITANIA AND OBSERVES FRENCH LEADERS ARE SAYING VERY LITTLE ABOUT IT, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE PREVIOUS MAURITANIAN LEADER WAS NOT A FRANCOPHILE AND INSTEAD WAS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES' BEST ALLIES IN THE REGION IN ITS ANTI-TERRORISM FIGHT. "IN FEBRUARY, THE COUNTRY RAISED TENSIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH. THE FORMER WANTED TO ORGANIZE IN THIS COUNTRY THE NEXT TRAINING SESSION FOR THE RAPID REACTION FORCE OF NATO. BUT PARIS VETOED IT."

FOREIGN MINISTER DOUSTE-BLAZY GIVES AN INTERVIEW TO LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE IN WHICH HE SAYS THE EU-3 WILL MAKE NEW PROPOSALS BEFORE AUGUST 7 THAT WILL OPEN A "NEW CHAPTER" BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EU AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY. AS FOR TURKEY AND CYPRUS, HE SAYS TURKEY CANNOT BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EU WITHOUT RECOGNIZING ALL 25 MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA IS ALSO NOTED, ESPECIALLY BY CATHOLIC LA CROIX, WHICH DEVOTES 5-PAGES TO THE ISSUE. JENNETH CONANT, GRANDDAUGHTER OF JAMES CONANT, FORMER PRESIDENT OF HARVARD AND AN ORGANIZER OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT, CONTRIBUTES A COMMENTARY TO LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE. "GUILT CAN TRANSMIT ITSELF IN A COUNTRY IN THE SAME MANNER AS WITHIN A FAMILY, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. THUS, THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA, 60 YEARS LATER, CONTINUES TO HAUNT US AS A NATION, JUST HAS IT NEVER STOPPED TROUBLING THE CONSCIENCE OF THE PEOPLE LINKED TO THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE EXAMINES THE WORLD.COM VERDICT. "TODAY, FINANCIAL CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES IS PUNISHABLE AS HEAVILY AS BLOOD CRIMES IN FRANCE. THE CONDEMNATION, JULY 13, OF BERNARD EBBERS TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON MARKS A TURNING POINT IN THE JUDICIAL TREATMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

"THE MANY WORRIES OF OLD KING ABDALLAH"
ANTOINE BASBOUS, DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY OF ARAB COUNTRIES, CONTRIBUTES A COMMENTARY TO RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO. "THE SAUDIS ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO ADAPT THEIR STUDIES TO THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET. THEIR UNIVERSITIES PRODUCE AND EXPORT A LOT OF GRADUATES IN THE RELIGIOUS SCIENCES, PREACHERS OF JIHAD.. IN THIS SEALED UP ARABIA, THE SHOCK OF GENERATIONS IS A REALITY: THE KING AND HIS BROTHERS WHO MANAGE THE KINGDOM ARE OCTOGENARIANS. BUT THE COUNTRY IS VERY YOUNG

AND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THESE OLD `DADDIES.' 60% OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.SAUDIS WANT CHANGE: SOME WANT MORE ISLAMIZATION. OTHERS A CONSTRUCTIONAL MONARCH AND A STATE OF LAW.ARABIA SUFFERS FROM AN ABSOLUTE MONARCHY, TOTALLY BROKEN OFF FROM MODERNITY. IT IS A KINGDOM OF CORRUPTION AND A GENERAL MESS. JUSTICE IS ARCHAIC AND DEPENDS ON THE POWERS.SAUDI WAHIBBITES PROVIDE KAMIKAZES TO THE JIHAD IN IRAQ, AS WELL AS GENEROUS FINANCING. THE FORESEEABLE BREAK-UP OF THIS COUNTRY BETWEEN SHIITES, SUNNIS AND KURDS MAKES ARABIA FEAR THE WORSE. BECAUSE THIS LOGIC RISKS TO CONTAMINATE AN ARABIA UNIFIED BY THE SWORD IN 1932 AND WHICH HAS NO MORE REASON TO REMAIN UNITED THAN THE DEFUNCT USSR AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.ARABIA IS AT HIGH RISK TO REMAIN, ALONG WITH IRAQ AND IRAN, AT THE HEART OF THE EPICENTER OF THE CRISIS ARC THAT WILL CONTINUE TO TROUBLE THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER FOR DECADES TO COME."

"THE NUCLEAR SYNDROME"

YVES PITETTE'S EDITORIAL IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX. "SOME HISTORIANS ARE DEBATING TODAY THE IDEA, UP TO NOW COMMONLY ACCEPTED, THAT THE BOMBS OF HIROSHIMA AND OF NAGASAKI ACCELERATED THE END OF THE WAR WITH JAPAN.WHATEVER THE DEBATE ON THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF WHO UNLEASHED WAR WITHOUT MERCY IN THE PACIFIC AND WHO WANTED TO END IT THE QUICKEST, THE TRAGIC DEMONSTRATION MADE ON AUGUST 6, 1945 OF THE TERRIFYING POWER OF THE ATOMIC BOMB CHANGED THE WORLD.TODAY, WE REALIZE EVERY DAY THAT THE END OF THE EAST-WEST FACE-OFF IS NOT RESOLVED, EVEN TO THE CONTRARY, AND THAT THE ARMS OF NUCLEAR DISSUASION ARE POWERLESS AGAINST TERRORISM.NEVER, SINCE AUGUST 1945, HAS THE RISK THAT THEY (NUCLEAR BOMBS) COULD BE USED ON A LOCAL SCALE (KASHMIR, KOREA, IRAN TOMORROW MAYBE) BEEN SO TRIVIALIZED. WILL THE HORROR OF THE ENDING OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI'S VICTIMS NEVER SERVE AS A LESSON?"

STAPLETON